

DCF LINK Alert – Random Moment Time Study

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THERE IS A CHANGE IN THE RMTS

Most of you know how important this process is to DCF. The federal government, via Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, helps support child welfare work by reimbursing the state for the cost of the social workers' salaries (by 50%)– depending on the activity that a social worker is engaged in. These activities are measured by the RMTS – a process that social workers are asked to respond to on a routine basis.

Recent federal legislation (Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act) has provided states with the opportunity of examining the work that social workers engage in when specifically working with children who are sex trafficking victims or those who are at risk of becoming a sex trafficking victim. To accommodate this change, we have eliminated the option to choose “IV-E Activity” and replaced it with the following language:

### **Sex Trafficking Identification and Case Management – Code E**

**This code is used when the staff member is engaged in an activity associated with the identification or case management of any child in care (including children on run-away status), or who has not been removed from their home but is known to the agency, and who is at risk of becoming a sex trafficking victim or who is determined to be a sex trafficking victim. Examples of these activities include:**

- **Conducting sex trafficking screenings on children known to the agency. This screening can include conducting the Emergency Department, Medical, Behavioral Health and Dental Assessment Protocols**
- **Documenting victims of sex trafficking in agency files.**
- **Determining appropriate services for individuals identified as such victims, including referrals to services**
- **Completing reports required for law enforcement, DCF and ACF of children who the agency identifies as being a sex trafficking victims**
- **For those sex trafficking evaluations conducted on a child previously unknown to the department, or from a closed case, the proper code to select is Code K – Investigations.**

Specific training on this change is planned for the next quarter. Until this occurs, please be mindful of the following points:

- If the child/youth is known to DCF, whether as a placed child or as an in-home child, the initial work done with this youth is considered “screening” from ACF’s definition and Code E (Sex Trafficking Identification and Case Management) is the proper code to check. This includes a child/youth on runaway status and/or considered “at risk” of victimization.
- If the child/youth is unknown to us, or from a closed case, the initial work done with this youth (prior to the safety assessment being completed) is considered “investigation” and the proper code to select is Code K (Investigations).